

BUILDERS OF THE DOMINION.

MEN OF THE EAST.

THE CABOTS

AND THEIR VOYAGES.

1. FOUR hundred and twenty-five years ago it was generally supposed that our earth was flat: only a few wise men believed it to be round. Amongst these was Christopher Columbus, who set out to sail westward across the Atlantic Ocean in the hope of arriving at Japan or China, which had hitherto been reached by travelling east from Europe. When Columbus came to the West Indian Islands he thought he had succeeded in his aim. But he had done something more wonderful. He had discovered America or the New World.

2. The story of his marvellous voyage caused great excitement, and other seamen planned to follow in his track. First of these were John Cabot and his son Sebastian. Before Columbus himself saw the mainland of America, the Cabots had landed (it is believed) on Cape Breton Island, in Nova Scotia. Some people think that this was in 1494, but the general opinion is that the Cabots had not visited America before their famous voyage of 1497.

3. No full account of the lives and adventures of these two bold explorers has come down to us, for all